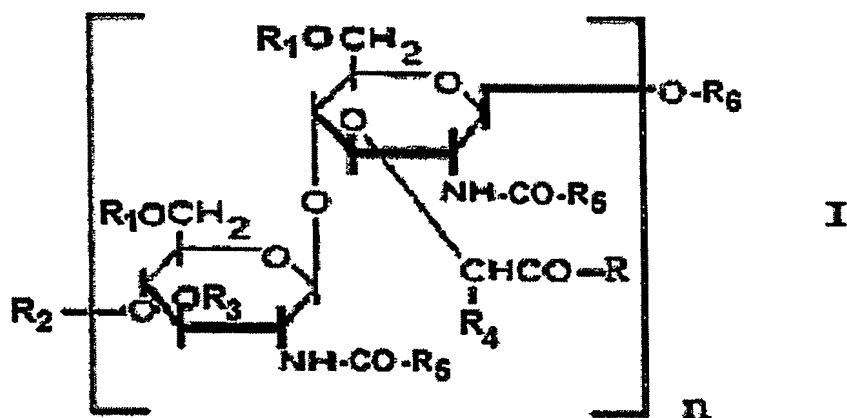


## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating a metabolic or autoimmune disorder in a human or veterinary patient, said method comprising the step of

(A) administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having the formula:



wherein:

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  each represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1$ - $C_{22}$  acyl group;

$R_4$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group;

$R_5$  represents a  $C_1$ - $C_{21}$  alkyl group or a  $C_6$  or  $C_{10}$  aryl group;

$R_6$  represents a hydrogen atom; and

$R$  represents the residue of an amino acid or a linear peptide of up to from 2 to 6 amino acid residues. Furthermore, at least one of the residues may be optionally substituted with a lipophilic group through an ester or amide bond; and  $n$  is 1 and 2.

2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises administering GMDP.

1 3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises  
2 administering GMDP-A.

1 4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein Step A comprises  
2 administering GMDP and GMDP-A.

1 5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein Step A comprises  
2 administering GMDP and GMDP-A in separate doses at separate times.

1 6. A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is  
2 administered enterally.

1 7. A method according to any of Claims 1-5 wherein the compound is  
2 administered parenterally.

1 8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2 intranasally.

1 9. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2 sublingually.

1 10. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the compound is administered  
2 by buccal administration.

1 11. A method according to any of Claims 1-10 wherein the method further  
2 comprises the step of:

3

4 (B) administering to the patient a natural or synthetic compound that  
5 comprises a flavone, flavonoid, isoflavone or a derivative, prodrug or  
6 congener thereof.

1 12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried  
2 out substantially simultaneously.

1 13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein Step A and Step B are carried  
2 out at different times.

1 14. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the compound of Step A and  
2 the compound of Step B are administered in a fixed dosage combination  
3 pharmaceutical preparation.

1 15. The use of a compound having the general formula set forth in Claim 1,  
2 in the manufacture of a preparation for administration to a human or  
3 veterinary patient for the treatment of an autoimmune or metabolic disorder.